

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants have amended claims 2-5 and 7 to remedy the objection with respect to the word "database" noted in the Office Action.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ridolfo (US PAP 2003/0216888 A1). Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a verified English-language translation of the Japanese priority patent application No. 2001-052779 in order to perfect Applicant's priority claim of February 27, 2001. A certified copy of the original foreign application was submitted with the claim for priority on September 14, 2001.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection based on Ridolfo is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 1-7 now be allowed. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.


If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

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please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #05620750393C3).

Respectfully submitted,


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